



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (TLHRC)

Hearing Notice:**

The Status of Human Rights in China: The U.N. Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Time: 10:00 am – 11:30am

Room: B-318

Please join the Commission at a hearing on the upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of China's human rights record at the United Nations. Established in 2006 through U.N. resolution 60/251 which created the Human Rights Council, the UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. The UPR is a State-driven process and aims to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur.

For years, the People's Republic of China has had a continuously worsening record of human rights violations, which was only thinly covered-up as the eyes of the international community were focused on Beijing during the 2008 Summer Olympics. Practically all areas of human rights are impacted by severe crackdowns, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and draconian punishments and the use of torture. These areas include significant violations of the right to cultural autonomy and self-determination in Tibet and Xinjiang, of the right to freedom of speech for journalists and civil activists such as the Charter 08 movement, of the right to religious freedom, of the right to a fair trial and adequate legal representation, of labor rights, of freedom from torture, as well as of the protection against forced migration.

To discuss these important issues, we will welcome as witnesses:

- I. Panel: **Representative**, U.S. Department of State (invited)
- II. Panel: **Bhuchung Tsering**, International Campaign for Tibet
Rebiya Kadeer, Uygher American Association
- III. Panel: **Felice Gaer**, Jacob Blaustein Institute
T. Kumar, Amnesty International
Harry Wu, The Laogai Research Foundation
Lucie Morillon, Reporters without Borders

By Direction of the Commission Co-Chairs. If you have any questions, please call Hans Hogrefe (202-225-5021) or Elizabeth Hoffman (202-225-5136)

**** Witness list is subject to change. All hearings of the Commission are open to the public and the media, unless otherwise noticed.** The Commission reserves the right to meet in executive session for all or parts of a Commission event even without prior notice by ruling of the Chair if special circumstances warrant such a procedure. In addition, the Commission seeks to make its events accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, or whenever practicable.